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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/632,101	08/01/2003	Marco Ciufolini	065691-0332	1920
22428	7590	02/14/2006	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/632,101	CIUFOLINI ET AL.	
	Examiner Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 54-81 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 55-60 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,54 and 61-81 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

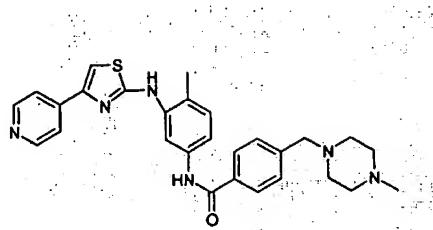
DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1 and 54-81 are pending in the application.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants' election without traverse of modified Group II, and the species of Example 80 found on pages 64-65 of the instant specification (reproduced below), in the reply filed on July 15, 2005 was acknowledged in the previous Office Action.

080: 4-(4-Methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-4-yl-thiazol-2-ylamino)-phenyl]-benzamide



The requirement was deemed proper and made FINAL in the previous Office Action.

Subject matter not embraced by modified Group II and claims 55-60 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected inventions. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on July 15, 2005.

Rejections/objections made in the previous Office Action that do not appear below have been overcome. Therefore arguments pertaining to these rejections/objections will not be addressed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 54 and 61-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with

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the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

No persuasive support could be found in the specification or the originally filed claims for the expression "bearing at least one nitrogen group" found in claims 1, 62-67 and 69. Applicants allege support for this expression on page 11, lines 3-4 and on page 17, lines 5-10. However, such showing for this expression is not found persuasive because this expression is not found in either location. Therefore, the claims lack written description as such.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 54 and 61-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, there are different definitions for the "R" variable. See definition c) under R¹ and definition (iv) under R⁷. Also see claims 63-65 for same.

In claim 61, there are a number of specie listed which are not embraced by independent claim 1. See, for instance:

- a) compound viii (Example 91 on pages 25-26);
- b) compound xxxix (Example 7 on page 21);
- c) compound xl (Example 8 on page 22);
- d) compound xxv (Example 61 on page 52);
- e) compound lxix (Example 49 on pages 47-48);
- f) compound xliv (Example 130 on page 23);

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- g) compound xlv (Example 131 on page 23);
- h) compound ci (Example 94 on page 26);
- i) compound cii (Example 95 on page 27);
- j) compound lxii (Example 26 on page 35); etc.

Claims 62-66 are indefinite because of the use of improper Markush language found in the expression "an organic group that can be selected for example".

In claim 63, the halogen "I" is incorrectly depicted as "1" under the R variable definition, first occurrence.

In claims 63-65, there is a valence problem with the R substituent "sulfonyl".

Claim 67 lacks antecedent basis from claim 1 since the R⁴ variable does not represent hydrogen in claim 1.

Claim 69 does not conform to M.P.E.P. 608.01(m) since each claim must end with a period.

Claim 77 lacks antecedent basis from claim 67 because the compound in claim 77 is not embraced by the genus of claim 67.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 54 and 61-81 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of copending Application No. 10/523,018. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claimed compounds are generically described in

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10/523,018. Note claim 1 in each of the applications and especially note the compound claimed in claim 18 of 10/523,018, which is the same compound as the first compound listed in instant claim 43.

The indiscriminate selection of "some" among "many" is *prima facie* obvious, In re Lemin, 141 USPQ 814 (1964). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (e.g., c-kit inhibitors). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that the instant claimed compounds would possess similar activity to that which is claimed in the reference.

One skilled in the art would thus be motivated to prepare products embraced by the prior art to arrive at the instant claimed products with the expectation of obtaining additional beneficial products which would be c-kit inhibitors. The instant claimed invention would

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have been suggested and therefore, obvious to one skilled in the art.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed November 22, 2005 have been fully considered. Applicants state that since the rejection is provisional, Applicants will address the rejection if it ever becomes a non-provisional rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 54, 61 and 73-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lago {WO 00/33842}, Dexter et al. {U.S. Pat. 3,467,666}, Spivack et al. {U.S. Pat. 3,201,409}, Illig et al. {U.S. Pat. 6,291,514}, Stieber et al. {U.S. Pat. 2003/0158199}, and Dhanoa et al. {U.S. Pat. 2001/0044545}, each taken alone or in combination with each other when similar activities are asserted.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)

Applicants claim substituted phenylamino-2-thiazole compounds. Lago (pages 2-8; and especially the compound on page 3, line 17), Dexter et al. (columns 1-

2; column 3, lines 35-38; and especially the compound of Example 13 in column 9), Spivack et al. (column 1; and especially the compound of Example 19 in column 9), Illig et al. (columns 4-5; Formula IV in column 17; columns 24-27; and especially the compound in column 18, lines 25-26), Stieber et al. (page 2; and especially Compound No. 17 on page 7; and Compound No. 35 on page 10) and Dhanoa et al. (page 3; Formula III on page 4; the compositions on pages 8-9; and especially compound 24 on page 6, paragraph [0120]) each teach substituted phenylamino-2-thiazole compounds that are structurally similar to the instant claimed compounds.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims

(MPEP §2141.02)

The difference between the compounds of Lago, Illig et al., Stieber et al. and Dhanoa et al. and the instant claimed compounds is that the instant claimed compounds are generically described in the prior art.

The difference between the compounds of Dexter et al. and Spivack et al. and the compounds instantly claimed is that of a hydrogen versus a methyl on a phenyl ring (see the instant R⁴ variable definition).

Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP §2142-2413)

The indiscriminate selection of "some" among "many" is *prima facie* obvious, In re Lemin, 141 USPQ 814 (1964). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (e.g., antagonizing the myt1 kinase receptor).

Further, it is well established that the substitution of methyl for hydrogen on a known compound is not a patentable modification absent unexpected or unobvious results. In re Wood, 199 U.S.P.Q. 137 (C.C.P.A. 1978) and In re Lohr, 137 U.S.P.Q. 548, 549 (C.C.P.A. 1963). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that

structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (e.g., a muscle relaxant).

One skilled in the art would thus be motivated to prepare products embraced by the prior art to arrive at the instant claimed products with the expectation of obtaining additional beneficial products which would, for example, antagonize the myt1 kinase receptor. The instant claimed invention would have been suggested and therefore, obvious to one skilled in the art. A strong case of *prima facie* obviousness has been established.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed November 22, 2005 have been fully considered. Applicants argue that: (1) there is no motivation to modify the prior art compounds to arrive at the specifically claimed compounds; (2) when R⁴ is hydrogen, there is about a 1 log decrease in activity on the c-kit receptor and therefore, Applicants allege that the claimed compounds

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are significantly more active than the prior art compounds; and (3) Dexter et al. and Spivack et al. teach compounds wherein the NH-R¹ group are always in the *para* position whereas in the instant claimed compounds, the NH-R¹ group is in the *meta* position.

All of Applicants' arguments have been considered but have not been found persuasive. Each of the cited prior art references teach where Applicants' R⁴ variable can be other than hydrogen. See, for example, the definition of the variable R at the bottom of page 2 in Lago. Additionally, each of Dexter et al. and Spivack et al. do teach compounds wherein the NH-R¹ group is in the *meta* position. See Example 13 in column 9 in Dexter et al. and Example 19 in column 9 in Spivack et al. Further, Applicants have not provided any factual proof in a side-by-side showing of unexpected results that the instant claimed compounds possess unexpected, superior and beneficial properties over the compounds of the prior art. The instant claimed compounds would

have been suggested and therefore, obvious to one skilled in the art.

Conclusion

Applicants' amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will

be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

This application contains claims 55-60 drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse in the reply filed July 15, 2005. A complete reply, if any, to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

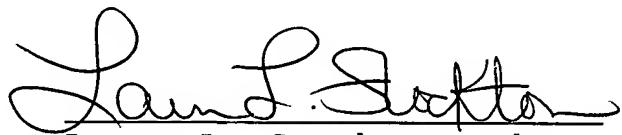
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (571) 272-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:15 am to 2:45 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

The Official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.



Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1600

February 7, 2006